

A global agreement on corporate tax is in sight. Let's make sure it happens.

(Fonte: The Guardian)

1. For more than four years, France, Germany, Italy and Spain have been working together to create an international tax system fit for the 21st century. It is a saga of many twists and turns. Now it's time to come to an agreement. Introducing this fairer and more efficient international tax system was already a priority before the current economic crisis, and it will be all the more necessary coming out of it.
2. Why? First, because the crisis was a boon to big tech companies, which raked in profit at levels not seen in any other sector of the economy. So how is it that the most profitable companies do not pay a fair share of tax? Just because their business is online doesn't mean they should not pay taxes in the countries where they operate and from which their profits derive.
3. Physical presence has been the historical basis of our taxation system. This basis has to evolve with our economies gradually shifting online. Like any other company, they should pay their fair share to fund the public good, at a level commensurate with their success. Second, because the crisis has exacerbated inequalities. It is urgent to put in place an international tax system that is efficient and fair.
4. Currently, multinationals are able to avoid corporate taxes by shifting profits offshore. That's not something the public will continue to accept. Fiscal dumping cannot be an option for [Europe](#), nor can it be for the rest of the world. It would only lead to a further decline in corporate income tax revenues, wider inequalities and an inability to fund vital public services.
5. Third, because we need to re-establish an international consensus on major global issues. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, with the support of our countries, has been doing exceptional work in the area of international taxation for many years.
6. The OECD has put forward fair and balanced proposals on both subjects: the taxation of the profit of the most profitable multinationals, notably digital giant, and the minimal taxation. We can build on this work. For the first time in decades, we have an opportunity to reach a historic agreement on a new international tax system that would involve every country in the world. Such a

multilateral agreement would signal a commitment to working together on major global issues.

7. With the new Biden administration, there is no longer the threat of a veto hanging over this new system. The new [US proposal on minimal taxation](#) is an important step in the direction of the proposal initially floated by our countries and taken over by the OECD. The commitment to a minimum effective tax rate of at least 15% is a promising start.
8. We therefore commit to defining a common position on a new international tax system at the G7 finance ministers meeting in London today. We are confident it will create the momentum needed to reach a global agreement at the G20 in Venice in July. It is within our reach. Let's make sure it happens. We owe it to our citizens.
9. Nadia Calviño, second deputy prime minister of Spain, is the country's economy minister. Daniele Franco is minister of economy and finance in Italy. Bruno Le Maire is France's minister of economy, finance and recovery. Olaf Scholz is German vice-chancellor and minister of finance. As you're joining us today from Italy, we have a small favour to ask.
10. Through these challenging times, millions rely on the Guardian for independent journalism that stands for truth and integrity. Readers from 180 countries chose to support us financially more than 1.5 million times in 2020. With your help, we will continue to provide high-impact reporting that can counter misinformation and offer an authoritative, trustworthy source of news for everyone.
11. With no shareholders or billionaire owner, we set our own agenda and provide journalism that's free from commercial and political influence. When it's never mattered more, we can investigate and challenge without fear or favour. Unlike many others, we have maintained our choice: to keep Guardian journalism open for all readers, regardless of where they live or what they can afford to pay.
12. We do this because we believe in information equality, where everyone deserves to read accurate news and thoughtful analysis. Greater numbers of people are staying well-informed on world events, and being inspired to take meaningful action. We aim to offer readers a comprehensive, international perspective on critical events shaping our world, from the Black Lives Matter movement, to the new American administration, Brexit, and the world's slow emergence from a global pandemic.
13. We are committed to upholding our reputation for urgent, powerful reporting on the climate emergency, and made the decision to reject advertising from fossil

fuel companies, divest from the oil and gas industries, and set a course to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. If there were ever a time to join us, it is now. Every contribution, however big or small, powers our journalism and sustains our future.